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(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU96/00515 (22) International Filing Date: 16 August 1996 (16.08.96) (30) Priority Data: PN 4839 16 August 1995 (16.08.95) AU (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: GRAY, Leo, James [AU/AU]; 2 Morrison Street, Clayton, VIC 3168 (AU). (74) Agent: A. TATLOCK & ASSOCIATES; 208 Elgin Street, Carlton, VIC 3053 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: BASE FOR DRINKING GLASS (57) Abstract <p>The device of this invention is a base for a drinking vessel and in particular is a base (10, 11) which can enable such a vessel to be used in conditions which would otherwise not be acceptable. The base (10, 11) is adapted to be connected over the drinking vessel, adjacent its lower end, and it incorporates a weighted portion whereby the drinking vessel is made stable when placed on non-flat surfaces. The device is specifically designed for stemmed drinking vessels.</p> <div data-bbox="706 1155 1502 1554" data-label="Image"> </div>		

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BASE FOR DRINKING GLASS

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a base for a drinking glass and in particular, to a base which can enable a glass to be used in conditions which would not otherwise be acceptable.

Particularly during the spring and summer in Australia, people wish to drink in areas such as lawns, car parks, around barbecues and on the beach and generally, in these positions there is no area which is flat and smooth, upon which glasses, particularly wine and champagne glasses, can be readily placed. This means that very often, the person has to carry their glass and if they are also carrying other things, such as a plate of food, this makes it very difficult to either eat or drink comfortably.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to obviate these difficulties.

The invention is specifically designed for stemmed glasses, which normally have a relatively flat, circular base, and can have a pocket or pockets which can receive the base, to positively connect the device thereto.

The invention could however be manufactured in any shape to accommodate a drinking vessel with an outwardly extending base. It is also not pertinent to the invention that the drinking vessel be made of glass however for convenience sake the word glass will be used in the following discussion.

The invention, in its broadest sense, includes a support base for a drinking vessel which is adapted to be connected over the drinking vessel, adjacent its lower end, and which support base incorporates a weighted portion, whereby the drinking vessel is made stable when placed on non horizontal surfaces.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood particular embodiments of the invention will be described with reference to the following drawings:

Fig. 1 shows a plan view of the glass base as viewed from above

Fig. 2 shows a schematic perspective view of the glass base

Fig. 3 shows a schematic cross-section through a glass base device with the glass located therein

Figures 1 and 2 show a preferred embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment we shall refer to a wine or champagne glass, generally called a wine glass, having a bowl, a downwardly extending stem and a circular base at the lower end thereof, upon which the glass normally sits.

The device of the invention is substantially circular in plan, and has a lower member 11 which is adapted to rest on a surface and on which the glass base is to rest, and has an upper surface member 10 overlying this, these two members being joined at their peripheral edges...

The upper surface 10 of the wine glass support base has a central aperture 40 connected to apertures 20 by slits 15 in the material of the surface such that in the preferred embodiment the upper surface is effectively divided into three components.

The precise number of apertures 20 and slits 15 is not germane to the invention however the division of the upper surface 10 into three components has been found to provide the best support for the base of a wine glass. The glass base being able to be located inside this surface with the stem protruding through aperture 40 while being supported by the surface material, in this case plastic, although any appropriate material could be used.

The upper surface 10 is also provided with drainage holes 30 which may be positioned wherever desired around the periphery of the surface in order to allow spilt fluids to drain out thereof.

The small apertures 20 shown in Figures 1 and 2 are provided to inhibit crack propagation of the slits 15 further than desired.

Figure 3 shows a cross section through the device of the invention and it can be seen that in this embodiment of the invention the lower member 11, on which the glass rests, contains a core 12 to provide rigidity, weight and a flat base.

The core 12 can be of any appropriate material and in this embodiment a stiff cardboard or plastic is used.

In another embodiment of the invention the bottom surface of the lower member 11 is bonded to a vinyl magnetic material.

In the above embodiments of the invention the lower member 11 of the invention has been an effective pouch containing a stiffening core however it is envisaged also that this member could be of an integrally moulded composition.

The plastic chosen for member 11 in the above embodiments is of a slightly textured nature with cushioning properties and provides both a waterproof surface and a non slip effect to the lower surface of the glass. The plastic of the upper member 10 is more rigid to provide better holding properties in grasping the glass.

In a further embodiment of the invention member 11 is a sandbag or equivalent which extends around a substantial part of the device. Obviously when filled with sand this member needs to be much larger than that in the previous two embodiments and needs to be constructed of a soft material preferably synthetic and waterproof. It is not essential to the invention that such a bag device be filled with sand and it is envisaged that any appropriate filling material as varied as beans, lead pellets, water or a gel could be used.

It is further envisaged that a sandbag type of device such as that described could be either affixed to or used in conjunction with the cored lower member 11 of the first embodiment.

The weight of such a sandbag device is sufficient to provide a steadying influence on the glass, and as it can be positioned to be partly above the base of the glass, if the glass and the device are placed on a surface, the glass tends to be held down onto this surface.

I have found that even if the surface is relatively sloping, the glass will still be maintained quite stably as the centre of gravity of the glass/unit combination is well down the stem of the glass and as such, it does not reach a situation of unstable equilibrium until the angle of the stem is quite substantial.

Whilst the embodiments of the device described herein are particularly suitable for a wine or champagne glass, it would be possible to make a somewhat similar devices which are adapted to fit around the bottom of a normal beer glass. These glasses normally taper inwardly, somewhat, to a base which has a diameter larger than the diameter of the glass at its lower end, and as such, there is effectively an annular lip around the end of the glass.

The materials of construction of the device can be selected for the particular type and quality of device to be made.

For a one-use device, the device could be made of a welded plastic, and this could bear advertising material about the upper surface thereof, or it could be made of a fabric material which provides a slightly better feel or appearance. Alternatively it could be constructed of some longer wearing decorated synthetic material.

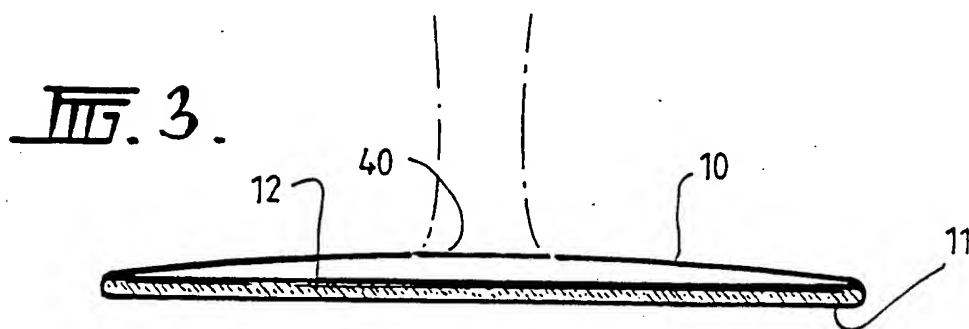
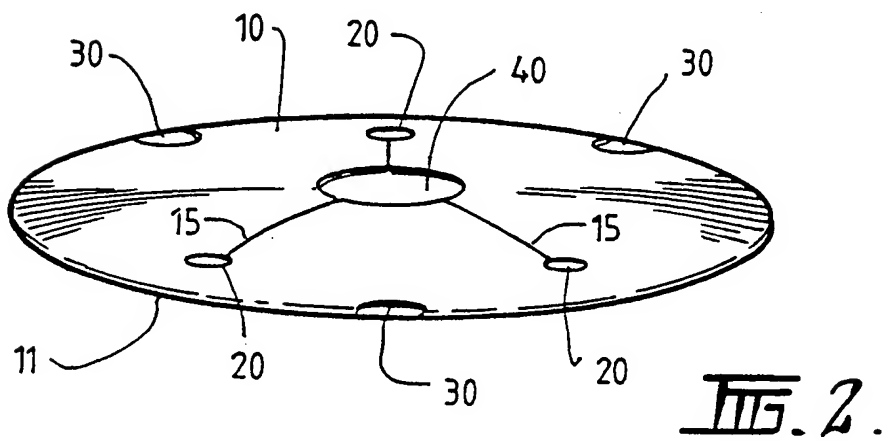
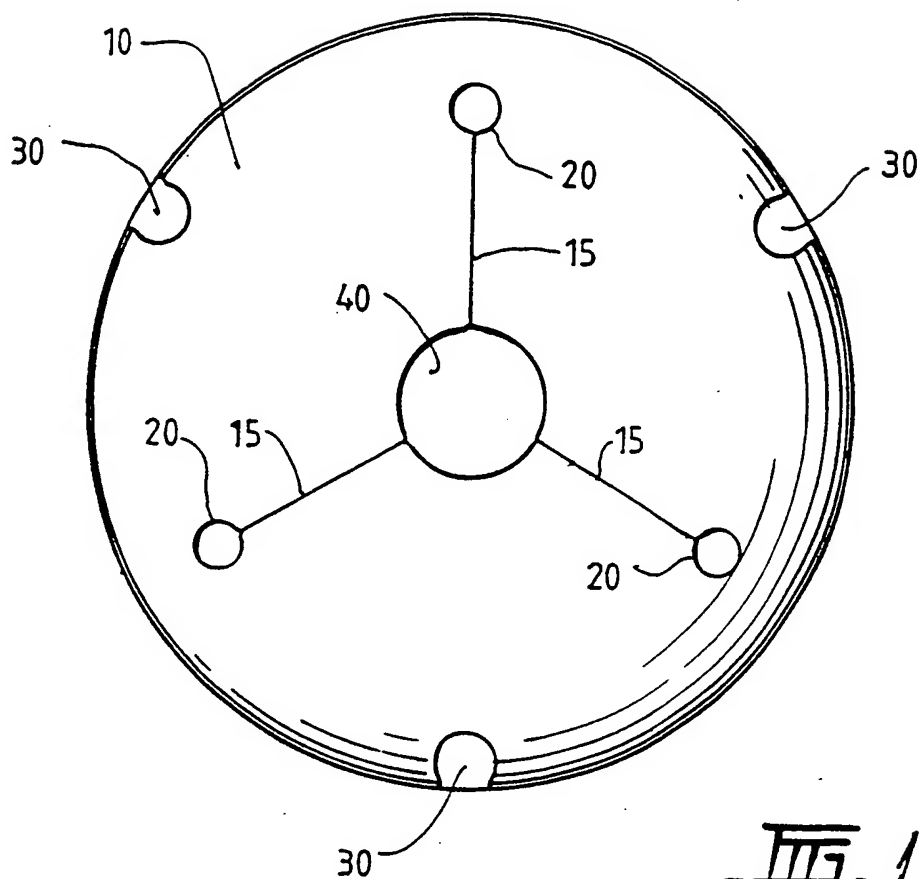
All such variations and modifications are deemed to be part of the invention.

The claims defining this invention are as follows:

1. A support base for a drinking vessel which is adapted to be connected over the drinking vessel, adjacent its lower end, and which support base incorporates a weighted portion, whereby the drinking vessel is made stable when placed on non horizontal surfaces.
2. A support base as claimed in claim 1 in which the support base is for a stemmed drinking vessel whose base extends outwards laterally from the lower end thereof.
3. A support base as claimed in claim 1 having a lower weighted member adapted to rest on a surface and having an overlying upper member adapted to receive the base of a drinking vessel, these two members being joined at their outer edges.
4. A support base as claimed in claim 3 whose upper member has a central aperture with at least one slit extending towards the outer extremity of the member.
5. A support base as claimed in claim 4 in which any slit which radiates from the central aperture terminates in a small aperture in the member a small distance from the outer extremity of the member.

6. A support base as claimed in claim 3 in which at least one drainage hole is provided in the upper member adjacent its outer extremity.
7. A support base as claimed in claim 3 in which the lower member forms an effective pouch around an inner core.
8. A support base as claimed in claim 7 in which the inner core of the lower member is of cardboard, plastic or some synthetic material.
9. A support base as claimed in claim 7 in which the under side of the lower member which contacts the surface is bonded to a vinyl magnetic material.
10. A support base as claimed in claim 3 in which the lower member includes, adjacent its under side, a bag which can be filled with a pliable material.
11. A support base as claimed in claim 10 in which the pliable material is sand or a gel.
12. A support base as claimed in claim 3 in which the lower member is either integrally moulded or solid.
13. A support base substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt Cl⁶: A47G 23/02, 23/03, 19/06, 19/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC: A47G 23/02, 23/03, 19/06, 19/22

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 355421 A (Colombani) 17 September 1931 see whole document	1, 2
X	GB 1271663 A (Brehmer) 26 April 1972 see whole document	1, 2
X	AU 27812/67 A (Cuda) 1 May 1969 see whole document	1, 2
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 September 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

9 October 1996

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Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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